

en four and five. Perhaps not only truthfulness, certain precocious alertness, is to be deduced from At the age of six, or earlier,<sup>1</sup> Benjamin was sent to DO! at Islington which was kept by a Miss Roper, •hich is described by one who knew it as ' for those a very high-class establishment.' Miss Roper had cks connexion, so that by an odd coincidence min's schoolmates included a number of boys ging to families among whom the Disraelis after-3 settled in that county. From Islington in process le he passed to a school of higher grade kept by the John Potticany, an Independent Minister, it is said,<sup>2</sup> liott Place, Blackheath. Here the atmosphere we Id, was liberal' as to both politics and religion,' though of the boys appear to have attended the services 3 Established Church. Probably it was only in a I of a certain latitude in religious matters that could be found in those days for a professing Jew ; 7G learn that Ben was not only allowed to stand it prayer time, but in common with a schoolfellow ?as also a Jew received instruction in Hebrew from bi who visited .them on Saturdays. Among his nporaries at Blackheath was Milner Gibson, the :nown Radical politician, who in later days was to jposite him in the House of Commons. From 3r contemporary we get a pleasant picture of Mr. sany's most distinguished pupil: —

.en my father took me to school he handed me over ., as he always called him. I looked up to him as a big .id very kind lie was to me, making me sit next to him y hours, and amusing me with stories of robbers and illustrating them with rough pencil sketches, which he ually rubbed out to make way for fresh ones. He was . rapid reader, was fond of romances, and would often j sit by him and read the same book, good-naturedly g before turning a leaf till he knew I had reached the i of the page. He was very fond of playing at horses,

early that he used afterwards to say he believed he was ere to learn to speak. wish  
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